



They are uncommon except in counties near the Mississippi River.

Habitats

Mississippi River; bottomland forests; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; interior rivers and streams; temporary water supplies

Iowa Status

uncommon; native

Range

eastern half of Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

spring peeper

Pseudacris crucifer

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Amphibia
Order:	Anura
Family:	Hylidae

Features

The spring peeper ranges from three-fourths to 1 1/4 inches long. It has a dark, irregular, "X"-shaped mark on the back and a dark mark between the eyes. The body is yellow, brown, gray, or olive with a pinkish cast. The belly is creamy white. A small adhesive pad is present at the tip of each toe.

Natural History

The spring peeper lives in moist woodlands and prairie wetlands adjacent to woodlands. It lives in trees or on herbaceous plants. It eats small invertebrates (spiders, insects, mites, etc.). It usually is active at night. It is seldom seen, except when breeding. Breeding occurs from early March to early June. The male's call is a high-pitched, birdlike peep. The female deposits several hundred eggs singly, attaching them to submerged objects. Hatching occurs in a few days with transformation to froglets being completed in May and June. Spring peepers are found in forest remnants in the eastern half of Iowa.